

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 PM-04
NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00
MCT-01 SY-05 SCS-03 SCA-01 OPR-02 A-01 CCO-00 DHA-02
PRS-01 IO-13 /083 W

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O 281718Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6002

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 03 BONN 03592

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - T E X T (P A R A 1 . S U B P A R A 3)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CASC, GW, UG, US

SUBJECT: UGANDA: SITUATION UPDATE FROM KAMPALA

REF: BONN 3576 (NOTAL)

1. FOLLOWING IS A CONTINUATION OF AMBASSADOR
ELLERKMANN'S REPORT (FRG NUMBER 86) SENT REFTEL.
REPORT RECEIVED AMEMBASSY BONN 1530 ZULU FEBRUARY 28.

BEGIN TEXT:

ALTHOUGH ABOVE RADIO ANNOUNCEMENT (BONN
3576) WAS MILITANT APPROACH IT SEEMS TO BE OF UTMOST
NECESSITY TO REMAIN CALM AND QUIET. AMIN LIKES TO
ESCALATE IN THIS WAY AND EVEN ENJOYS IT. THIS
EMBASSY, HOWEVER, MAINTAINS THAT WEDNESDAY MEETING
WILL END IN A FRIENDLY WAY WITH NO HARM DONE TO
AMERICANS. AMIN MAY PUT SOME AMERICANS ON A READY
PLANE, POSSIBLY SOME MISSIONARIES ON PLO SUGGESTION,
BUT WILL PRAISE AND HOST THE OTHERS. EMBASSY IS
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SUPPORTED IN ASSESSMENT BY RELIABLE INFORMATION THAT,
TOGETHER WITH THE AMERICANS, BRITISH WILL BE ASKED TO
ATTEND BIG RECEPTION AT BOTANICAL GARDENS IN ENTEBBE
AFTER AMIN'S MEETING WITH AMERICANS. SAME HAPPENED
TO DIPLOMATS ON JANUARY 1ST, WHEN THEY WERE INVITED TO
ENTEBBE AIRPORT IN THE MORNING TO WITNESS PERFORMANCE
OF NEW MIGS 21 AND WERE AFTERWARDS INVITED BY

PRESIDENT TO ATTEND RECEPTION AT BOTANICAL GARDENS.

CHANGE OF VENUE TO ENTEBBE AIRPORT IS STILL OPEN TO SPECULATION. TO ME IT SEEMS MOSTLY FOR MILITARY REASONS BECAUSE AMIN REALLY IS NOT CERTAIN THAT AMERICANS MIGHT NOT INVADE UGANDA. THERE ARE ENOUGH ADVISERS AROUND AMIN WHO MIGHT FEED INFORMATION THAT AMERICANS ARE PLANNING A MILITARY ACTION AGAINST UGANDA. LAST NIGHT ARMED FORCES IN ENTEBBE WERE RE-ENFORCED BY HEAVY MILITARY VEHICLES AND SEVERAL ARMY UNITS SEEN ON THE ROAD FROM KAMPALA TO ENTEBBE. ALSO ALL MIGS 21 ARE TO BE SAID READY FOR MISSION AT OLD ENTEBBE AIRPORT.

OTHER SPECULATION IS THAT AMIN WANTS TO SHOW AMERICANS THE MIGS ARE IN ACTION TO PROVE HOW STRONG AND UNDEFEATABLE HE IS. OTHERS ASSUME THAT HE MIGHT LIKE TO SHOW AMERICANS OLD AIRPORT WHERE ISRAELIS INVADED AND KILLED 20 UGANDAN SOLDIERS. OTHER SUGGESTION IS THAT AMERICAN CREW OF C-130 WILL PARTICIPATE IN FUNCTION AND DEMONSTRATE THEIR PLANE. FINALLY, ENTEBBE IS THE ONLY PLACE WHERE IN FRONT OF A HUGE CROWD/ AMERICANS WHO WISH TO LEAVE OR ARE REQUESTED TO LEAVE, CAN BOARD A READY PLANE.

ACCORDING TO THIS EMBASSY'S LATEST COUNT THERE ARE 260 AMERICANS IN UGANDA AT THE MOMENT OF WHICH 40 ARE WIVES AND 59 CHILDREN, AND OF WHICH 25 ARE UN PERSONNEL (INCLUDING 6 WIVES AND 10 CHILDREN).

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FROM TALKS WITH AMERICANS CALLING ON THIS EMBASSY, IT APPEARS THAT ALMOST NO AMERICAN WANTS TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY, CERTAINLY NOT MISSIONARIES, BUT SOME ARE UNCERTAIN. GENERAL IMPRESSION IS THAT ONLY A FEW MIGHT DECIDE TO LEAVE ON WEDNESDAY IF A CHANCE IS GIVEN. STATE 43685 THEREFORE, THERE SEEMS NO NEED TO SEND A COMMERCIAL PLANE TO PICK UP AMERICANS IN UGANDA. THIS OFFER MIGHT ONLY CAUSE NEW SUSPICIONS THAT AMERICANS ARE SENDING A PLANE AS COVER-UP OF A MILITARY INVASION FORCE. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT AMIN STILL SUFFERS FROM DEFEAT DELIVERED TO HIM BY ISRAELIS IN JULY LAST YEAR AND, -SINCE PRESENT DEVELOPMENT REMINDS HIM OF ENTEBBE EVENTS LAST YEAR, HE REALLY MIGHT FEAR AN INVASION ESPECIALLY IF SUSPICIONS SUPPORTED BY PLO ADVISERS.

AMERICANS CALLING ON EMBASSY ARE UNDERSTANDABLY NERVOUS AND UNCERTAIN WHAT TO EXPECT ON WEDNESDAY.

HOWEVER, THEY ALL REPORTED THAT TREATMENT BY LOCAL
AUTHORITIES IS POLITE AND COOPERATIVE. THEY HAVE BEEN

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NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00
MCT-01 SY-05 SCS-03 SCA-01 DHA-02 A-01 OPR-02 CCO-00
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ASKED TO PREPARE LISTS OF ALL THEIR PROPERTIES.
QUESTIONS AS TO WHETHER THEY SHOULD TAKE NECESSARY
THINGS WITH THEM AND WHETHER WIVES AND CHILDREN ARE
INVITED TO ATTEND MEETING- ARE NOT ANSWERED, BECAUSE
LOCAL AUTHORITIES DO NOT KNOW. SO FAR EMBASSY HAS NOT
HEARD WHO IS DRAFTING MEMORANDUM WHICH AMERICANS HAVE
BEEN ASKED TO PRESENT. IT IS ASSUMED THAT IT IS IN
THE HANDS OF PILOTS OF PAGE-GULFSTREAM CORPERATION,
WITH WHICH EMBASSY NEVER REALLY HAD CONTACT.
HOWEVER, EMBASSY HEARD THIS MORNING THAT BOEING 707 WITH
CREW IS AT PRESENT SOMEWHERE IN EUROPE BECAUSE OF
"MECHANICAL TROUBLE." ALSO JET PILOT OF PRESIDENTIAL
JET IS ON LEAVE IN AMERICA, SO THAT ONLY CREW OF C-130
AND GROUND PERSONNEL ARE AT ENTEBBE AT THE
MOMENT. AMERICAN HEADMASTER OF LINCOLN SCHOOL, MISS
HARTWELL, SAID THIS MORNING, THAT AMERICAN COMMUNITY IS
RATHER CALM.

LAST NIGHT TV CREW OF NBC ARRIVED ON SABENA
CONSISTING OF MR. KLAUS DEHMEL AND MR. PETER DEHMEL
(GERMAN NATIONALS) AND MR. FRED BRIGGS (AMERICAN).

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ALSO OTHER AMERICAN JOURNALISTS HAVE ARRIVED. IT SEEMS THAT BRITISH SUBJECT, MR. ASTLES, WHO ORGANIZED AMIN'S MEETING WITH BRITISH LAST YEAR, IS RATHER ACTIVE AND IN CHARGE OF INTERNATIONAL PUBLICITY FOR WEDNESDAY.

SO FAR I HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO DELIVER MESSAGE BY PRESIDENT CARTER TO AMIN. ACTING MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS LUBEGA WAS NOT AVAILABLE YESTERDAY (SUNDAY) AND TODAY HE IS IN CABINET MEETING. I JUST SAW CHIEF OF PROTOCOL, MR. OSEKU, AND TOLD HIM OF MESSAGE AND THAT I WOULD LIKE TO SEE ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. I HESITATE TO CONTACT PRESIDENT'S OFFICE DIRECTLY BECAUSE AMBASSADORS HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO APPROACH PRESIDENT'S OFFICE ONLY THROUGH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. IN ADDITION, LUBEGA COULD GIVE ME VALUABLE HINTS AS TO PRESENT MOOD OF AMIN BEFORE I SEE HIM.

IN ANY EVENT, I ADVISE STRONGLY THAT U.S. SEND ANOTHER PERSONAL MESSAGE, SHOWING FRIENDLY ATTITUDE OF U.S. GOVERNMENT THROUGH UGANDAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. IT APPEARS THAT AMIN AT THE MOMENT PREFERS TO COMMUNICATE THROUGH HIS OWN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, KEEPING GERMAN EMBASSY IN KAMPALA AT ARMS LENGTH AS HE DID WITH FRENCH EMBASSY WHEN THE BRITISH WERE TO MEET AMIN LAST YEAR. NEW MESSAGE, HOWEVER, SHOULD NOT CONTAIN OFFER TO SEND COMMERCIAL PLANE FOR REASONS MENTIONED ABOVE.

TO REDUCE TENSION FURTHER IT WOULD CERTAINLY HELP IF ANNOUNCEMENT CAME FROM US GOVERNMENT IMMEDIATELY THAT NO MILITARY ACTION WAS CONTEMPLATED AND THAT ANY SPECULATION BY UGANDAN GOVERNMENT IN THAT DIRECTION WAS FALSE AND WITHOUT ANY FOUNDATION. SUCH ASSURANCE COULD BE GIVEN IN NEW PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE TO AMIN THROUGH UGANDAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON.

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ALTHOUGH THIS EMBASSY HAS NO WAY OF JUDGING MILITARY SITUATION, IT SEEMS ALMOST CERTAIN THAT ANY MILITARY OR ISRAELI STYLE ACTION WOULD END IN BLOODSHED NOT FOR AMERICANS ONLY.

TO MAKE 100 PERCENT SURE THAT NOTHING WILL HAPPEN TO AMERICANS ON WEDNESDAY IT IS AGAIN STRONGLY SUGGESTED

THAT HIGH-RANKING GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE AS SPECIAL
ENVOY FROM PRESIDENT CARTER COMES TO UGANDA BEFORE
WEDNESDAY, IF POSSIBLE WITH A MESSAGE BY PRESIDENT
CARTER IN WRITING AND SIGNED BY HIM. ORAL OR
UNSIGNED MESSAGES DO NOT COUNT MUCH WITH AMIN AS IN
OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES. IF A DECISION IS MADE TO SEND
SPECIAL ENVOY THIS ALSO SHOULD BE ANNOUNCED
IMMEDIATELY.

EMBASSY REPEATS SUGGESTION THAT ENVOY SHOULD BE A
CABINET MEMBER OR SENATOR, PREFERABLY A BLACK AMERICAN.
HOPING THIS IS NOT RESENTED, EMBASSY WISHES TO
MENTION THAT AMBASSADOR YOUNG WAS HEAVILY
CRITICIZED HERE FOR HIS STATEMENT ON KILLINGS IN UGANDA.

EMBASSY ALSO SUGGESTS THAT NO PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS ARE
MADE ON THIS EMBASSY'S ACTIVITIES AND REPORTS THAT EMBASSY
WAS NOT PARTICULARLY HAPPY/ WHEN IT WAS ANNOUNCED HERE,
THAT SPOKESMAN OF DEPARTMENT OF STATE STATED THAT
WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENT TOLD U.S. "IT WAS TAKING ALL

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MCT-01 SY-05 SCS-03 SCA-01 OPR-02 A-01 CCO-00 DHA-02
PRS-01 /070 W

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STEPS TO PROTECT THE AMERICANS IN UGANDA AND THAT THEY
ARE IN NO IMMEDIATE DANGER." AMIN REGARDS HIMSELF
AS THE ONLY CONDUCTOR OF THE FORTHCOMING EVENT AND
MAY RESENT ANY REFERENCE TO OTHERS AS INTERFERENCE WITH

HIS AFFAIR ESPECIALLY WHEN HE HEARS THAT GOVERNMENT OF FRG IS TAKING STEPS TO PROTECT AMERICANS IN UGANDA. BESIDES, THE PHRASE "IN NO IMMEDIATE DANGER" IMPLIES THAT EMBASSY IS NOT QUITE CONVINCED THAT AMERICANS ARE SAFE. THEREFORE, IT WOULD BE BETTER NOT TO MAKE ANY STATEMENTS WHATSOEVER AT THE MOMENT AS TO THE ACTIVITIES AND ASSESSMENTS OF THIS EMBASSY. THEY MIGHT LEAD TO MEASURES AGAINST THIS EMBASSY, MAKING IT DIFFICULT TO PROTECT AND ASSIST AMERICANS EFFECTIVELY.

TO SUMMARIZE: TO REDUCE NERVOUSNESS AND TO ASSURE AMIN THAT NOTHING IS PLANNED AGAINST HIM MILITARILY FOLLOWING MEASURES ARE SUGGESTED:

A) PUBLIC STATEMENT, THAT NO (NO) MILITARY INTERVENTION IS PLANNED;

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B) -SAME ASSURANCE BE TRANSMITTED THROUGH UGANDAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON;

C) NEW PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT TO PRESIDENT BE SENT THROUGH UGANDAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON;

D) DECISION ON SENDING SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL ENVOY TO UGAND BE MADE BEFORE WEDNESDAY AND IF DECIDED SO, IMMEDIATE ANNOUNCEMENT.

EMBASSY JUST LEARNED FROM VERY RELIABLE SOURCE THAT AMIN INDEED HAS NO (NO) INTENTION TO DO ANY HARM TO AMERICANS ON WEDNESDAY AND WILL GIVE THEM FREE CHOICE WHETHER TO STAY IN UGANDA OR TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY. HE WISHES "TO THANK THEM AND TO SEE THOSE OFF WHO WANT TO LEAVE." SOURCE HAS REQUESTED NOT TO BE DISCLOSED, BUT WAS PERSONALLY PRESENT WHEN AMIN MADE THIS STATEMENT.

EMBASSY WISHES TO THANK VERY MUCH -APPRECIATION OF ITS WORK AS EXPRESSED IN CABLE NO. 44 DATED 27-2-77.

(STATE 43685).

ELLERKMANN

END TEXT.

2. REFTTEL BEING REPEATED TO NAIROBI.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Copy: SINGLE
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3316584
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UGANDA: SITUATION UPDATE FROM KAMPALA
TAGS: PFOR, CASC, GE, UG, US, (ELLERKMANN, RICHARD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c5324bc6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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